



*"Bringing people and resources together to preserve and promote the unique urban character of The historic Elliot Park Neighborhood"*

Over two years in the planning and creation, Elliot Park Neighborhood's Master Plan is the realization of thousands of hours of effort contributed by citizen participants and community stakeholders. Developed with the assistance of the professional urban design consulting team of Hokanson/Lunning/Wende and Close Landscape Architects, the Master Plan is the neighborhood's vision for directing its planning and development efforts during the upcoming years.

The Master plan recommends initiatives to achieve the following objectives:

- Make Elliot Park a more pedestrian-friendly and livable community through greening efforts and better design of public spaces;
- Encourage in-fill development of new housing and retail space for the best and highest use of neighborhood properties;
- Preserve the distinctive historic features of Elliot Park while integrating them into new design and development initiatives;
- Bring a social and physical unity to the entire neighborhood through coordinated efforts to create Neighborhood Commons spaces and places.

Implementation of several key demonstration projects is now the neighborhood's highest priority for use of the plan. The full plan has been specially formatted to help bring reality to these objectives and to respond to new challenges and opportunities as they arise. Each chapter can stand on its own, addressing a specific focus area of the Master Plan and providing information of particular interest. However, the observations, guidelines and recommendations contained in these chapters should be read and studied as a holistic document when applied to design and development initiatives. This will be the work assumed by EPNI's citizen participation committees in future months and years.

Just as the creation of the plan involved collaborative efforts, the plan's outcomes encourage neighborhood partnerships with both the private and public sectors as the most effective means for realizing Elliot Park's objectives. To this end, EPNI has adopted the philosophy that Elliot Park's Master Plan be viewed not as a series of commandments etched in stone, but rather as a "gameboard" upon which many pieces of strategic importance are put into play. This analogy recognizes that the physical and social characteristics of an urban neighborhood are constantly in flux, and therefore wise planning strategies retain a flexibility that acknowledges the vagaries and complexities of change. The visions presented here of a possible future neighborhood can most usefully be viewed not as paint-by-numbers constructions, but as mappings that will guide Elliot Park residents and workers to those places where opportunities exist to fashion the kind of community desired by all.



